

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, OEXC, OREP, PL, US

SUBJECT: US- POLISH PARLIAMENTARY EXCHANGES

1. ACTION REQUESTED: THE EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT THE DEPARTMENT EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM NUMBER G-1-14 UNDER WHICH POLISH MAYORS AND GOVERNORS ARE NOW INVITED TO THE UNITED STATES TO INCLUDE A VISIT BY DELEGATES TO THE POLISH SEJM (PARLIAMENT). IN THIS REGARD, WE NOTE THE DISCUSSION OF SUCH VISITS BETWEEN AMBASSADOR DAVIES, BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, AND SENATOR MUSKIE AND CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI. THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONSIDER PURSUING THE QUESTION WITH SENATORS HUMPHREY AND MUSKIE, CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI, AND OTHER POTENTIALLY INTERESTED CONGRESSMEN TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH AN APPROPRIATE INVITATION MIGHT BE ISSUED TO A GROUP OF SEJM DEPUTIES, WITH THE EVENTUAL GOAL OF PREPARING FOR A VISIT SHORTLY BEFORE THE CONGRESSIONAL LABOR DAY RECESS. END ACTION REQUESTED.

2. POLISH OFFICIALS RECENTLY HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF COURTESY CALLS BY AMBASSADOR DAVIES TO EMPHASIZE THEIR STRONG INTEREST IN FUTURE EXCHANGES OF VISITS BY DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING THE US CONGRESS AND THE POLISH SEJM

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(PARLIAMENT). SEJM MARSHAL GUCWA FIRST TOUCHED ON THIS THEME DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL MARCH 7. WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF COMMENTS ON IMPROVING US- POLISH RELATIONS, THE MARSHAL LAID PARTICULAR STRESS ON THE BENEFICIAL IMPACT OF VISITS BY LEGISLATORS OF BOTH SIDES, GIVING AS AN EXAMPLE THE RECENT VISIT BY SENATOR HUMPHREY TO POLAND.

3. OBVIOUSLY FOLLOWING UP ON GUCWA'S REMARKS, WINCENTY KRASKO, SEJM FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMISSION HEAD AND CHAIRMAN OF THE POLISH ORGANIZATION FOR TIES WITH POLONIA, DISCUSSED THE THEME OF MUTUAL LEGISLATIVE CONTACTS IN GREATER DETAIL DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL MARCH 9. FOLLOWING A STATEMENT STRONGLY SUPPORTING EXPANSION OF SUCH CONTACTS, KRASKO ASKED HOW THE MECHANICS OF SUCH AN EXCHANGE COULD BE ARRANGED FROM THE US SIDE. MAKING IT CLEAR THAT HE HAD NO AUTHORITY TO SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE CONGRESS AND WAS CONSEQUENTLY OFFERING HIS PERSONAL REACTIONS, THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE, THE CONGRESS DOES NOT INVITE FOREIGN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS, BUT THAT MEMBERS WOULD PRESUMABLY WELCOME A VISIT IF A GROUP OF SEJM DEPUTIES SHOULD VISIT THE US. KRASKO SAID THAT HE INTENDED TO TALK WITH CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI ON THE SUBJECT AT THE UPCOMING IPU MEETING IN ABIDJAN, WHICH BOTH WILL ATTEND. REGARDING VISIT OF US CONGRESSMEN TO POLAND, THE AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT, BESIDES POLISH-AMERICAN CONGRESSMEN WHO HAVE BEEN FREQUENT VISITORS HERE IN THE PAST, THE POLES MIGHT WISH TO ENCOURAGE VISITS BY CONGRESSMEN WHO, ALTHOUGH NOT THEMSELVES OF POLISH EXTRACTION, REPRESENTED DISTRICTS WITH LARGE POLISH COMMUNITIES. KRASKO REACTED POSITIVELY TO THIS SUGGESTION. THE AMBASSADOR ALSO SUGGESTED THAT, IF A GROUP OF SEJM DEPUTIES WERE TO VISIT THE US, IT MIGHT BE BEST TO THINK OF DOING SO IMMEDIATELY BEFORE THE LABOR DAY RECESS, TO GIVE THE SEJM DEPUTIES A CHANCE TO FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH BOTH CONGRESSIONAL PROCEDURES AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, THE WORK OF CONGRESSMEN IN THEIR HOME DISTRICTS.

4. THE QUESTION OF CONGRESS- SEJM EXCHANGES WAS RAISED AT A SOMEWHAT MORE FORMAL LEVEL DURING THE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON VICE FOREIGN MINISTER SPASOWSKI MARCH 16. SPASOWSKI HAD OBVIOUSLY BEEN WELL- BRIEFED ON THE DETAILS

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OF THE EARLIER GUCWA AND KRASKO MEETINGS AND SAID THAT

POLAND FAVORED SOME EXCHANGE OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE US AND POLISH PARLIAMENTS AS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR TWO COUNTRIES TO BECOME BETTER ACQUAINTED. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD MR. KRASKO INTENDED TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT WITH CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI AT ABIDJAN.

5. COMMENT: THE EMBASSY FAVORS THE IDEA OF BROADENED PARLIMENTARY EXCHANGES WITH POLAND AS A GOOD WAY OF DEMONSTRATING, AND MAINTAINING, THE MOMENTUM OF OUR IMPROVING RELATIONS AND OF EXPOSING ADDITIONAL INFLUENTIAL POLES TO THE REALITIES OF THE US. THE POSITIVE IMPACT OF HIS US VISIT ON KRASKO, FOR EXAMPLE, IS EVIDENT. MOREOVER, THE POLES NOW HAVE EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST IN SUCH EXCHANGES. IF THE DEPARTMENT AGREES THAT THIS IS A DESIRABLE GOAL, THE PROBLEM, AS WE SEE IT, IS TWOFOLD.

(A) ALTHOUGH WE PROBABLY CAN COUNT ON THE POLES, CONSIDERING THEIR INTEREST, TO SHOULDER A GOOD PART OF THE FINANCIAL BURDEN, FUNDING WILL PRESUMABLY HAVE TO BE FOUND TO COVER THE EXPENSES OF INTERNAL US TRAVEL AND LODGING. THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING THE RANGE OF EDUCATION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM G-1-14, UNDER WHICH POLISH MAYORS AND GOVERNORS NOW TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES, TO COVER THE TRAVEL OF A SEJM GROUP. (B) THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE VISIT. IN VIEW OF THE INTEREST IN SUCH VISITS EXPRESSED TO AMBASSADOR DAVIES BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE BY SENATOR MUSKIE (WHO SAID HE WOULD GET SENATOR HUMPHREY'S VIEWS ON THE MATTER), AND KRASKO'S INTENTION OF RAISING THE MATTER WITH CONGRESSMAN DERWINSKI, THE DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO EXPLORE WITH THEM THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK-- PERHAPS A JOINT, INFORMAL INVITATION ON BEHALF OF SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN WHO HAVE VISITED POLAND-- WITHIN WHICH A GROUP OF SEJM DEPUTIES MIGHT VISIT THE US. WHILE COGNIZANT OF THE POLITICAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED, THE EMBASSY FEELS THAT THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS TO OUR RELATIONS WITH POLAND FULLY WARRANT CAREFUL EXPLORATION OF THE AVENUES BY WHICH SUCH A VISIT COULD BE ARRANGED.

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